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CONTROL NO. 7-17249/84  
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NPIC/IEG/TFD

6 DECEMBER 1984

PROBABLE REACTIVE ARMOR ON T-80 TANK  
 KHARKOV TANK AND VEHICLE TEST FACILITY, USSR (SWN)

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1. SIGNIFICANCE: A T-80 TANK WITH PROBABLE BLOCKS OF REACTIVE ARMOR WAS OBSERVED AT THE KHARKOV TANK AND VEHICLE TEST FACILITY ON IMAGERY OF [REDACTED] THIS IS THE FIRST SIGHTING OF A T-80 (WITH OR WITHOUT REACTIVE ARMOR) IN THE KHARKOV AREA. THE TESTING OF A T-80 TANK WITH PROBABLE REACTIVE ARMOR AT KHARKOV SUGGESTS THAT KHARKOV TANK AND LOCOMOTIVE PLANT MALYSHEV 75 [REDACTED] IS INVOLVED IN THE T-80 PROGRAM AND WAS ALSO INVOLVED IN THE TESTING OF THE T-64B WITH REACTIVE ARMOR. (SWN)

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2. REMARKS: THE TANK IS [REDACTED] LONG OVERALL, WHICH PRECLUDES THE POSSIBILITY THAT IT IS A [REDACTED] LONG T-64 SERIES TANK. THE PROBABLE REACTIVE ARMOR WAS APPLIED TO THE TURRET FRONT, SIDES, PART OF THE TURRET ROOF, AND UPPER GLACIS PLATE (FRONT DECK). THE T-80 WITH PROBABLE REACTIVE ARMOR APPEARED TO BE UNDERGOING TESTING/MAINTENANCE AT A SMALL INSPECTION AREA NEAR THE TANK RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (R AND D)/TANK GUN FIRING AREA AT THE TEST FACILITY. THIS FACILITY, 6 NM SOUTH OF THE KHARKOV TANK PLANT, IS PRIMARILY USED TO PERFORM MILITARY ACCEPTANCE AND LIMITED R AND D TESTING ON THE T-64 SERIES OF TANKS, INCLUDING THE T-64B, WHICH ARE PRODUCED AT THE NEARBY TANK PLANT. (SWN)

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A LESS LIKELY EXPLANATION FOR THE UNUSUAL APPEARANCE OF THE TANK AT KHARKOV IS THAT CANVAS OR NETTING IS DRAPED OVER THE FRONT AND SIDES OF THE TURRET AS WELL AS THE GLACIS. NORMALLY, HOWEVER, TANKS SEEN AT THE TEST FACILITY, ESPECIALLY THOSE OUT ON THE TRACK, DO NOT HAVE CANVAS ON THEM. (SWN)

THE FIRST SIGHTING OF A SOVIET TANK (A T-64B) WITH REACTIVE ARMOR WAS AT BERNAU BKS/HQ ARTY 244 [REDACTED]

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THE TANKS AT BERNAU WERE IN A SOVIET MOTORIZED RIFLE REGIMENT VEHICLE PARK. SEVERAL CHANGES HAD BEEN MADE TO THE T-64B IN ORDER TO ACCOMMODATE THE REACTIVE ARMOR. THESE CHANGES INCLUDE THE REMOVAL OF THE V-SHAPED WAVE DEFLECTOR ON THE GLACIS, THE

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6 DECEMBER 1984

RELOCATION OF ALL GRENADE LAUNCHERS TO THE REAR AND LEFT SIDE OF THE TURRET, AND THE RELOCATION OF SEVERAL OF THE EQUIPMENT BOXES ON THE TURRET. (SWN)

A SIMILARITY EXISTS BETWEEN THE T-80 AT KHARKOV AND THE REACTIVE ARMOR EQUIPPED T-64B TANKS AT BERNAU. HOWEVER, TWO MODIFICATION FEATURES ON THE T-80 DIFFER FROM THOSE ON THE T-64B. WE CANNOT SEE IF THE GRENADE LAUNCHERS HAVE BEEN RELOCATED. SECONDLY, THE APPLICATION OF THE REACTIVE ARMOR AT KHARKOV DIFFERS SLIGHTLY FROM THAT AT BERNAU. THE T-80 APPEARS TO HAVE MORE REACTIVE ARMOR PLACED ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE TURRET NEAR THE COMMANDER'S CUPOLA. (SWN)

ANALYST'S COMMENTS -- THE T-80 TANK WITH PROBABLE REACTIVE ARMOR WAS AT KHARKOV FOR TESTING. MOST LIKELY, REACTIVE ARMOR WILL EVENTUALLY BE SEEN ON THE T-80 [REDACTED]. THE MODIFICATIONS TO THE T-64B AND T-80, INCLUDING THE REMOVAL OF THE V-SHAPED WAVE DEFLECTOR, THE WELDING OF STUDS TO HOLD THE REACTIVE ARMOR, AND THE RELOCATION OF GRENADE LAUNCHERS AND EQUIPMENT BOXES ARE PROBABLY DONE AT THE TANK PLANT WHEREAS THE INSTALLATION OF THE REACTIVE ARMOR ON THE T-80 WILL PROBABLY BE DONE IN GARRISON AS IT IS ON THE T-64B TANK. SHIPPING BOXES FOR THE REACTIVE ARMOR WERE SEEN AT BERNAU ADJACENT TO T-64B TANKS THAT HAD BEEN MODIFIED TO ACCEPT REACTIVE ARMOR. (SWN)

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NO OTHER TANKS EQUIPPED WITH REACTIVE ARMOR HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AT KHARKOV ON A REVIEW OF IMAGERY. FURTHER SIGHTINGS OF T-80 AT KHARKOV WILL BE NECESSARY TO CONFIRM THE EXTENT OF THIS PLANT'S INVOLVMENT IN THE T-80 PROGRAM. REACTIVE ARMOR EQUIPPED T-80 TANKS HAVE NOT BEEN SEEN AT OMSK TANK PLANT VOROSHILOV 174 (BE [REDACTED]), THE ONLY CONFIRMED PRODUCER OF T-80 TANKS, OR AT ITS NEARBY TEST FACILITY. WITH REACTIVE ARMOR CONFIRMED ON THE T-64B AND NOW PROBABLY ON THE T-80, THE SOVIETS HAVE APPARENTLY DECIDED THAT REACTIVE ARMOR WILL BE AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN INCREASING THE SURVIVABILITY OF THEIR TANK FORCE. (SWN)

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ADDITIONALLY, THE DRAPING OF CANVAS OVER THE GUN TUBES AND PROBABLY THE FRONT OF MOST OF THE TANKS AT THE SHIPPING YARD OF THE KHARKOV TANK PLANT SINCE MAY 1983 (NPIC IAC 461 FOR 25 OCTOBER 1983) COULD BE RELATED TO THE REACTIVE ARMOR PROGRAM. T-64B TANKS MIGHT HAVE BEEN MODIFIED TO ACCEPT REACTIVE ARMOR AS

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EARLY AS 1983, WITH THIS CONCEALMENT EFFORT BEING AN ATTEMPT TO PREVENT THE OBSERVATION OF THESE CHANGES, ESPECIALLY THE REMOVAL OF THE WAVE DEFLECTOR OR THE PRESENCE OF DIFFERENT SIZE TANKS ( [ ] T-64 SERIES AND THE [ ] T-80) IN THE SHIPPING YARD. (SWN)

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3. [ ] COORDINATES 49-53-20N 036-20-05E (S)

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4. ANALYST: [ ] (U)

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